

1104.0 - Microdata News, Nov 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 25/11/2011

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In this issue

There have been some important CURFs released recently, such as the Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing Basic and Expanded CURF, 2009-10 released in early October. This CURF has been very popular with our clients. We also expect strong interest from the next issue of the Business Longitudinal Database CURF. Please see the article in this issue for further information about available and expected CURFs and instructions on how to preorder the new Business Longitudinal Database CURF.

Not all microdata users are aware that the ABS has an on site Data Laboratory (ABSDL). The ABSDL may be an even more attractive option to users now that the statistical languages have been updated.

Finally, I would like to wish all our CURF users, Contact Officers and Responsible Officers a safe and happy holiday season.

Kim Farley-Larmour
Director, Microdata and Multidimensional-data Access Strategies

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New and upcoming CURF releases

To receive information about a CURF on the day of its release, please subscribe to the free ABS Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access to CURFs use the MiCRO online CURF application system web page.

Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Aug 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.001)

Released: 26 August 2011

This CURF provides information from both the monthly Labour Force Survey and the related Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership supplementary survey in more detail.

Detailed labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15 years and over are included. In addition, for employees, data is provided on earnings, leave entitlements, superannuation, entitlement to other benefits and trade union membership.

A technical manual explaining data content and technical details is available: Technical Manual: Labour Force and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Aug 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.002). and should be used in conjunction with the CURF.

Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002)

Released: 20 September 2011

This CURF provides information about migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.

A technical manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is available: Technical Manual: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001) and should be used in conjunction with the CURF.

Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2010 (cat. no. 6306.0.55.001)

Released: 29 September 2011

This CURF provides information about the estimates of the composition and distribution of employee earnings, the hours they are paid for and the methods used to set their pay (i.e. award only, collective agreement, or individual arrangement). EEH is the only ABS source of information on methods of setting pay.

Some of the key data items on the EEH CURF include:

- Weekly earnings - Ordinary time, Overtime, Amounts salary sacrificed, and Total earnings (available as continuous variables);
- Hours paid for - Ordinary time, Overtime, and Total hours paid for (available as continuous variables);

- Methods of setting pay;
- Employee characteristics - e.g. Sex, Full-time/Part-time status, Managerial status, Occupation (available at the 1, 2 and 3 digit ANZSCO level), Type of employee (Permanent, Fixed-term, Casual);
- Business characteristics - Industry (1 digit ANZSIC level), and Employer unit size (under 20 employees, or 20 or more employees); and
- Jurisdictional information - Jurisdictional coverage of employees and Jurisdiction of registered agreement.

A technical manual explaining data content and technical details and conditions of use is available: Technical Manual: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2010 (cat. no. 6306.0.55.002) and should be used in conjunction with the CURF.

Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6540.0)

Released: 7 October 2011

This reissued file contains unit record data from the Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing.

This release includes two corrections to the Household Expenditure Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs. The Survey of Income and Housing Basic and Expanded CURFs have not been impacted by these changes. Four individual microdata files are available: the Basic files for HES and SIH are distributed on CD-ROM or can be accessed via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

A User Guide describing the definitions, concepts methodology and estimation procedures used in the Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing, is available: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6503.0) and should be used in conjunction with the CURF. Information about the CURF data previously released in a separate Technical Manual is now included in the User Guide.

Microdata: Family Characteristics, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4442.0.55.001)

Expected release: November / December 2011

Microdata available on this Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) were compiled from the Family Characteristics topic in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS), which was conducted as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS), from July 2009 to June 2010.

The Family Characteristics topic collected information on household and family composition including demographic, labour force, and family types. A particular focus is families with children aged 0-17 years. The additional information collected for families with children included information about family structure, the social marital status of the parents, and contact and visiting arrangements for children with non-resident parents and grandparents.

A technical manual for the Family Characteristics, Expanded CURF, Australia (cat. no. 4442.0.55.001) explaining data content, technical details and conditions will be available.

Microdata: General Social Survey (cat. no. 4159.0.30.002) **Expanded CURF, Australia**

Expected release: November / December 2011

An Expanded confidentialised unit record file from the 2010 General Social Survey, which brings together a wide range of information to enable it to be linked across areas of social concern. The focus is on the relationships between characteristics from different areas, rather than in depth information about a particular field. Topics include health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress, broad assets and liabilities, information technology, transport, social capital, voluntary work, family and community, crime, attendance at selected sport, culture and leisure venues and participation in sport and recreational activities.

An Information paper explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use will also be provided with the file.

Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, CURF, Australia, 2004-05 to 2009-10 (cat. no. 8168.0.55.001)

Expected release: 21 December 2011

The aim of Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) is to facilitate micro level analysis for a panel (cohort) of small and medium businesses over time, and it includes both characteristics and financial data. This release of the BLD Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) provides information for the first two panels included in the BLD. Five years of data is included for both panel's: Panel One includes data for 2004-05, 2005-06 , 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; and Panel Two includes data for 2005-06 , 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

A technical manual for the Business Longitudinal Database, CURF, Australia, (2004-05 to 2009-10) (cat. no. 8168.0.55.002) will provide comprehensive information for BLD CURF users.

ABS encourages pre-order applications prior to the 21 December release date, refer Business Longitudinal Database - pre-order today!

For further future CURF releases please see our List of Expected and Available Microdata web page.

For information on applying for access to ABS CURFs, please refer to How to Apply for Microdata on the ABS website.

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What's new to the ABSDL?

The ABSDL now contains updated versions of SAS, Stata and SPSS. The ABSDL now contains SAS 9.2 and SASEG, Stata10 and SPSS20 to match current user environments. Earlier versions of these languages and Excel are still available. Options for other software packages, such as R or MLwiN can be discussed if they are required.

Please note that eligible University users are entitled to 3 free sessions under the ABS/Universities Australia agreement.

What is the ABSDL?

The ABS Data Laboratory is a valuable option for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. It is an interactive environment located on ABS premises which allows more flexibility than RADL. The ABSDL does not have the built-in security restrictions on the code used or on output sizes that RADL requires, and you can open and view the CURF dataset. Output is cleared by the ABS prior to release. Further information on the use of the ABSDL, including costs, can be found on the About the ABS Data Laboratory page.

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Does your organisation have a secondary Contact Officer?

All organisations have a Primary Contact Officer, but does your organisation have a Secondary Contact Officer?

Every organisation should appoint at least one Secondary Contact Officer. Secondary Contact Officers are appointed to ensure applications from employees in MiCRO can be processed in the absence of the Primary Contact Officer.

Please refer to the [Contact Officer: Role and Responsibilities](#) for more information.

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New Business Longitudinal Database CURF - pre-order today!

The new Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2004-05 to 2009-10 is expected to be released on **21 December 2011**. This is a very popular CURF and we anticipate demand will be high.

To avoid possible delays due to the ABS Christmas shutdown period, you may pre-order your CURF access from today. This will enable us to process applications prior to the release date.

To find out how to apply for access to the new Business Longitudinal Database CURF visit the [How to Apply for Microdata](#) page on the ABS website.

For more information on existing and future CURF releases view the [List of Expected and available Microdata](#).

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ABS Christmas shutdown - no manual clearance in RADL

The ABS will be closed from midday on 23 December 2011 to 2 January 2012 inclusive. Clients will continue to receive RADL automatic output clearance but no manual clearance service will be available during that time.

If the lack of availability for manual clearance over this period causes serious difficulties, please contact the RADL Administrator before the shutdown period, at radl@abs.gov.au.

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Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

It includes information about new releases of microdata including; Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), TableBuilder datasets and other access methods, as well as tips for users and news about developments in the ABS microdata world.

Previously known as CURF Microdata News.

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